



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10

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OFFICE OF  
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL  
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

August 22, 2014

James W. Balsinger, Ph.D.  
Administrator, Alaska Region  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

RE: EPA comments on the Management of the Subsistence Harvest of Northern Fur Seals on St. George Island Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, EPA Project # 03-048-NOA.

Dear Dr. Balsinger:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the above-mentioned Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS). We have reviewed the document in accordance with our responsibilities under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

In our June 23, 2014, letter regarding the Draft SEIS, we rated the document a "LO" (Lack of Objection) with respect to your agency's preferred alternative (Alternative 2 modified management to reflect St. George petition and implement new conservation measures). This rating was due to the comparatively lower impacts to subsistence activities and greater support of co-management objectives. We also urged timely action for this decision due to the length of time since the tribal government's petition.

Based on our review, and the continued selection of Alternative 2 as your agency's preferred alternative, we have no other substantive comments to offer at this time. We recognize your agency's efforts to expeditiously complete this FSEIS and urge quick action on the Record of Decision as well.

Thank you again for the opportunity to review the FSEIS. If you have questions concerning our comments, please contact me at (206) 553-1601 or [reichgott.christine@epa.gov](mailto:reichgott.christine@epa.gov), or you may contact Jennifer Curtis of my staff in Anchorage at (907) 271-6324 or [curtis.jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:curtis.jennifer@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Christine B. Reichgott", is positioned above the typed name.

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager  
Environmental Review and Sediments Management Unit